

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public consultation launched on 10th August 2026 on proposals to extend the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in York city centre.

The consultation follows discussion with North Yorkshire Police about additional powers to help address behaviour that can negatively affect residents, businesses and visitors in the city centre and which resulted in Executive approval for this consultation to be undertaken.

PSPO

As you will know, PSPO is a legal power available to local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It is intended to help tackle behaviours that have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in a local area.

The council is seeking feedback on five proposed new conditions, which would prohibit:

1. **Intimidation and coercion** – pressuring or deliberately intimidating someone into giving money.
2. **Persisting in requests** – continuing to ask for money, food or other voluntary assistance after an initial refusal.
3. **Pestering or pursuing** – following, nagging or blocking the path of an individual.
4. **Invasion of personal space** – hindering free passage, impeding a doorway, or standing uncomfortably close to someone, for example beside a cash machine.
5. **Disorderly groups** – groups engaged in shouting, aggressive or disruptive behaviour, or alcohol-fuelled behaviour likely to cause someone nearby to fear disorder, abuse or confrontation.

If introduced, engaging in any of these behaviours within the designated city centre area would be an offence and could result in enforcement action.

Enforcement

Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence. Offenders may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of **£100** (reduced to **£75 if paid within 10 days**). Failure to pay may result in prosecution through the magistrates' court, where fines of up to **£1,000** can be imposed.

Consultation

The consultation is open now (from **10 August**) until **18 September 2026**.

Residents can take part online via the council's consultation webpage: [Current consultations](https://www.york.gov.uk/local-democracy/say-current-consultations#pspo). [Have your say in current consultations – City of York Council](https://www.york.gov.uk/local-democracy/say-current-consultations#pspo) <https://www.york.gov.uk/local-democracy/say-current-consultations#pspo>

Paper and Easy Read versions of the survey are available from Explore libraries and West Offices.

Anyone who needs support to complete the survey can contact saferyork@york.gov.uk.